

# MEMORANDUM

## Economic Development

### ANNUAL REPORT

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#### Highlights from January 2017 to December 31, 2017

We made forward progress on many important projects in Richmond Heights from January 2017 until December 2017. The top most significant advancements are as follows:

**a. Master Plan Update**

We held several public meetings and encouraged group participation. By the end of the year, the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission helped us identify 7 key zones where we can focus our City's energies to help facilitate growth and prosperity in Richmond Heights. This work on the Master Plan Update continued through the first half of 2017 and we completed all of the analysis and study for the Master Plan Update.

**b. Kiwanis Lodge \$50,000 Grant Award**

The Department of Economic Development, working in collaboration with the Recreation Department applied in late December 2016, to the Cuyahoga County Department of Economic Development for grant funds. The County granted the City \$50,000 to complete ADA upgrades to the lower level of the Lodge, making the Lodge more accessible to people with disabilities. The City was also able to renovate the facility, and plans for additional, potential renovations are underway.

**c. Richmond Heights Greenwood Farm Sanitation Improvement**

In November of 2017 the City applied for \$50,000 of funding from Cuyahoga County through the 2018 Cuyahoga County Supplemental Grant Program. The City was awarded these funds and are using them to eliminate the current septic system at Greenwood Farm. This upgrade allows for improved sanitation at the Farm house and prevent pollution from entering Euclid Creek.

**d. Centennial Projects**

The Department of Economic Development was involved in the many Centennial events the City hosted. From working with Recreation Director on the Memorial Day Community choir event to the "Fit for 100" event at a local dance studio, and "Police Night Out". Economic Development worked actively with the Centennial Committee to ensure that the community was actively engaged in making 2017 a special year.

**e. Community Revitalization**

We have demolished an old brown field gas station and two residential homes that were blighted, open to trespassing and abandoned. These projects cost more than \$300,000 and they were funded through grant funds for which we had applied.

**f. Community Development**

The Department of Economic Development alongside the Department of Recreation fostered a relationship with the Hillcrest YMCA to operate our pool, we collaborated with community stakeholders including Montefiore and the Hillcrest YMCA to enhance the programming we offer our senior residents, and we encouraged philanthropy by supporting the County Land Bank and Harvest for Hunger, and other non-profits whose missions are community oriented.

**g. Cuyahoga County Airport**

The Department of Economic Development really worked hard to galvanize a three- way relationship between the schools, the City and the Airport. We held a collaborative event called "Pasta with a Purpose" at the Cuyahoga County Public Airport. This annual event is a fund raiser for the Richmond Heights School Education Fund. The City hosted and sponsored the wine and cheese tasting table at the event.

**h. Richmond Heights Participation with HRCC**

This effort included heading up the Community Involvement-Economic Development committee of the HRCC. Through this committee, we brought all six cities to Richmond Heights to understand "perception" of our cities, to discuss our schools and also to market our cities on line in a more compelling way. Our LOIS website presence is a result of this effort. Similarly, for the first time Richmond Heights joined the "Shop Local" movement right after Black Friday last November. The City also participated in the HRCC's Business Expo to promote and bring awareness to all the great opportunities in our community.

**i. Residential Real Estate Showcase**

The City's Real Estate is one of our strongest features. The purpose of the showcase was for the public to gain information that would help buy, sell and/or finance homes in Richmond Heights. Real estate lenders, brokers and agents were all on hand to answer questions. The event was co-hosted with Dollar Bank.

**j. CubeSmart**

DealPoint Merrill acquired the 162,190 square foot Macy's Department Store in Richmond Town Square for redevelopment under the CubeSmart self-storage national brand. The Macy's department store which has been vacant since 2015, presented an excellent opportunity for redevelopment under the CubeSmart self-storage national brand in addition to 30,000 square feet of additional retail space, with plans for 2 national restaurant brands for the 9-acre parcel.